

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

AMERICAN EMBASSY

LONDON, W. 1.

5 Grosvenor Square

3 December 1954

STAT

[redacted]
Chief, FBIS
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington 25, D. C.

STAT

Dear [redacted]

Subject: Scripts of BBC External Services

Since John Campbell wrote you on 10 November, [redacted] and I joined him in a visit to Mr. James Monahan, Controller of BBC European Services for a discussion and first hand appraisal of the problems involved in obtaining BBC scripts. We were received with a sincere display of willingness to do everything possible. What we heard and saw however only served to confirm the analysis in Campbell's letter. Manner of treatment and method of preparation of copy for broadcast make the assembling of the output for delivery to FBIS in a useful form burdensome if not impossible without the addition of staff. In the preparation stage, the material is pieced together from a variety of sources in two copies; one is for the archives and the other is passed on through the news desks, rewrite editors, script writers, translators and area editors until read over the air. The mere making of an additional copy would require a duplication of effort all the way down the line. Even if this enormous bulk could be made available there would remain the problem of shipment to Washington or local analysis. If analyzed here, additional staff would surely be required. The most it was felt could be done would be to provide scripts of broadcasts to a restricted area, probably not more than one country, dealing with a limited subject for a period of not more than one week.

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If you would care at any time to propose a subject experimentally for this kind of treatment, the BBC would be glad to deal with it as best they could. I am prepared to pass on any request you may care to make.

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Sincerely,

[redacted]

Chief, London Bureau

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(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	INITIALS	STAT	DATE
1			10/12
2			10/12
3			13 Dec
4	File File + BBC. Review File		
5			
FROM	INITIALS	DATE	
1		12/10	
2			
3			

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

Remarks:

None to see this is
noted in file containing
USIA request for monitoring
of BBC.

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